

OCTOBER 16, 2014

The Town Council met in regular session at the Town Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Present were: STRAW, WARRUM, WALKER, and WILSON along with Clerk-Treasurer Karla Atkins and Attorney Adam Farrar.

The following visitors were present: Mark Sears, Bobby Grider, Virginia & Don Alsop, Brenda Drone, Jennifer & Alvin Blaylock, Darvin Barnes, David Vonderscher, Roger Wade, Jim Stinson, Carlene & David VanLaningham, Tom Straw, and Scott Champlin.

Councilman Walker made and Warrum seconded a motion the minutes of the previous regular meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Warrum made and Wilson seconded a motion the minutes of the previous special meeting be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Warrum announced EMCOR will be doing a feasibility study on the water utility at no cost to the Town.

Councilman Warrum reported the fall tree planting was completed by Hillside. Arbor Day will be held on October 18 at Murphy Park. She also announced the Park Board has changed their regular meetings to the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Councilman Wilson reported the quote for phase two of the cemetery preservation came in at \$5,300. He will be working on this and some other initiatives at the Cemetery.

Councilman Walker reported she is still working with Pat Callahan on the rate study for the wastewater utility. She plans to have a draft ordinance to Council around the first of November. She would like to adopt the ordinance at the December meeting, with the fees to be effective in January.

Councilman Warrum made and Walker seconded a motion that Cheryl Ballard be appointed to the committee that will be established to oversee how inn keepers funds are spent. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Town must appoint one more person to the committee, and plans to do so at the next meeting.

Councilman Walker made and Warrum seconded a motion that Councilman Wilson be appointed to the New Harmony Way Bridge Committee. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wilson made and Walker seconded a motion that the 2015 budget be adopted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Wilson stated the Town had a study done on the former school property and he thinks Council needs to begin discussion what should be done with the property. He feels demolition of all or part of the structure needs to be looked into, along with liquidating the remaining personal property. Councilman Wilson pointed out there has been some interest in the building, but none of it has been viable. He stated the Town has not offered any incentives for converting the building to another use, which could be considered also. It was agreed that Councilman Wilson and Walker will look into costs for demolition and/or development of the property. Councilman Walker will contact Johnson Controls about winterizing the property.

Councilman Wilson discussed a letter that was previously provided to Council about a golf cart poker run scheduled for October 25. The proceeds from the poker run will be donated to the New Harmony Food Pantry. The sponsor of the event, Carts Gone Wild, is requesting that the Town waive the golf cart registration fee for those from out of town who would like to participate. The fee waiver request was approved. Council members asked that Town Marshal Champlin make sure those participating are aware of the Town's golf cart regulations.

Councilman Wilson made and Warrum seconded a motion that pay estimate #1 from Blankenberger Bros. for the storm water project in the amount of \$64,800.72 be approved. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Farrar read the proclamation regarding Arbor Day on October 18.

Mark Sears, with Midwestern Engineers, gave an update on the storm water project.

Town Marshal Champlin reported the recent drug arrests were the result of a year long investigation.

Darvin Barnes inquired about the upcoming floodplain changes and what progress has been made in getting an elevation check. Councilman Warrum stated the elevation has been set at 380.4, but work is continuing to get that reduced. She continued that in order to get the elevation reduced, engineering data would have to be obtained to justify the reduction. Mr. Barnes asked what citizens can do to get FEMA to re-evaluate the data. Councilman Warrum responded that what really needs to be done is a study by the Army Corps of Engineers, and she therefore asked that citizens contact their legislators. Councilman Wilson added that there is no funding in place for a study by the Corps. He stated that the maps will go into effect November 5. Those property owners who purchase flood insurance prior to that date may realize a lower premium prior to the implementation of the new maps. The premium is also currently capped for annual increases under federal legislation Council encouraged citizens to consult their insurance professionals for additional guidance. Those persons with a mortgage who will be in the floodplain as of November 5 will be required by their mortgage company to purchase flood insurance.

David Vonderscher asked if the Town can do anything from a legal stand point, such as an injunction since there are so many questions regarding the authenticity of the data. Attorney Farrar stated he is confident that anything that can be done, has been at this point.

Jim Stinson stated he is not in favor of legal action, but he has done some research on an administrative appeal process. He inquired if the Council would consider having the Town Attorney review the appeal process.

Tom Straw suggested that a letter of map revision be filed immediately after the November 5 effective date of the map.

Mr. Stinson explained his reason for looking into the administrative appeal. He feels that FEMA should have come to the New Harmony Plan Commission in 2011 and conducted a hearing, yet they only went to the Posey Co. Area Plan Commission.

Attorney Farrar offered to give Council an overview of what the Town's appeal rights are. Council agreed this would be beneficial and stated there is a short amount of time to take action.

Mr. Stinson stated he intends to stop what he is doing on the basis that Attorney Farrar is going to research the matter. President Straw told Mr. Stinson not to let the Town stop what he is doing; he needs to do what he wants to do.

Councilman Warrum stated she intends to attend the roundtable in Poseyville on November 13. Those wishing to attend should inform Clerk-Treasurer Atkins.

Councilman Wilson made and Walker seconded a motion the claims be allowed and the Clerk pay the same. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Joe Straw, President of Town Council

Attest:

Karla L. Atkins, Clerk-Treasurer